

# MINNESOTA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION

## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS, No. 1

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The Commission has long felt the need of some regular means of communication with the libraries of the state. This bulletin has been undertaken with the hope that it may be a medium for circulating the library news of the state, awakening the interest of librarians in what their neighbor libraries are doing, giving an opportunity for interchange of ideas, and so establishing an *esprit de corps* among Minnesota library workers. We ask your co-operation in carrying out this purpose. If your library is trying any new plan, send us an account of it; if you have a list of duplicates for sale or exchange, we will be glad to advertise it. We hope to make this a library newspaper for our state, although in no sense a literary periodical, and suggestions and contributions will be gladly welcomed.

### MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The 12th annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association was held at the Mankato Public Library, October 27th-28th. There were 27 librarians, 10 trustees, and 1 publisher in attendance. The first session was held in the children's room of the library on Thursday afternoon. The association was welcomed by Mr. C. E. Wise, president of the Mankato Library Board. Miss Maude Van Buren, librarian, Owatonna Public Library, read a paper on reference work

in the small library. Miss Van Buren's paper was entirely practical, giving suggestions as to the most indispensable reference books for the library of limited means to own, and telling how to make the most of small resources. The plan of making town libraries free to the surrounding country was presented by the librarian of the State Library Commission and reports were given from Stillwater and Owatonna, where the plan has been inaugurated. In each of these places, the county commissioners have appropriated \$300 a year toward the support of the central library, in return for which the library is made free to all residents of the county. The plan has been in operation in Steele county (Owatonna Public Library) for nearly a year, with very successful results. Traveling libraries, loaned by the State Library Commission, have been located at outlying points, and the entire circulation outside the city has been about 1,300. At Stillwater, where the plan was only begun in September, there are already 66 borrowers from outside the city, and traveling libraries have been sent to three small country villages. A paper by Mrs. A. R. Kits of Fergus Falls on "Reading for Children" was read by Miss Alice Farr, of the Mankato Normal School Library. The paper was rather unusual in its point of view and provoked a very spirited discussion, which was led by Mrs. Alice Lamb, Litchfield, and Miss Alice Farr, Mankato.

The evening session opened at 7:00 o'clock with the report of the committee on State Documents, given by E. A. Nelson, State Librarian. Mr. Nelson gave a most carefully prepared report, containing the draft of a bill placing the distribution of state

documents under the control of the state librarian and providing for their distribution to a list of libraries to be approved by the State Library Commission. The report was accepted and the committee continued as a Legislative Committee to urge the passage of the bill. After a short report of the A. L. A. meeting at St. Louis by Mrs. F. C. Conner, librarian, Austin Public Library, a public reception was given by the Mankato board in the beautiful Carnegie library building.

The Friday morning session was devoted to the interests of trustees, the discussion being on the practical problem of how to conduct a public library on \$1,000 a year. Over 20 small towns in Minnesota, which have recently been provided with Carnegie buildings, are now facing this problem. C. K. Bennett, trustee, Owatonna Public Library, gave a most excellent paper on "The Librarian, Qualifications, Duties and Salary." Prof. J. J. Dow of Faribault gave a very practical talk on the selection of books. For a library having a book fund of \$250 or \$300 annually, he recommended that \$50 should be spent for periodicals, from \$50 to \$100 for reference books and \$200 for circulating books. He advocated a good percentage of the best fiction, and thought that the selection should be in the hands of a good book committee, with lists to be submitted by the librarian. H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis, gave some very valuable, practical suggestions on the buying of books, touching upon prices and discounts, editions and dealers. Miss Josephine Cloud, Minneapolis Public Library, told of their experience with renting collections of popular books and the discussion showed that this plan might also be adopted in small libraries. E. J. Stearns of Hutchinson gave a paper on "The Library Building," which appears elsewhere in the bulletin. The papers were all followed by questions and interchange of experience which brought out many interesting facts and important suggestions. The general concensus of the meeting was that the best way to conduct a library on \$1,000 a year was to raise more money, as this sum is not sufficient to properly maintain a building, provide for the books and pay the librarian. Reports show that only two or three of the small libraries were now receiving their full taxation and it was urged that effort should

be made to obtain the full amount authorized by the State law.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the members of the Mankato library board for the delightful entertainment provided for the association, and the city for its cordial hospitality; recommending the passage of the bill proposed by Mr. Nelson for the distribution of state documents, commending the work of the State Library Commission and urging that a permanent appropriation of \$10,000 annually should be provided for its support; favoring the enactment of a law that will authorize county commissioners to appropriate money for the aid of libraries that provide for a general circulation of books over the county, and also recommending the passage by Congress of the Lodge bill relating to reduced postage on library books.

The election of officers closed the business session of the meeting.

In the afternoon the Mankato Library board had arranged for a drive about Mankato and its beautiful natural park and the perfect Indian summer weather added greatly to the enjoyment of this occasion. In the evening a public lecture by Dr. Richard Burton, of Boston, formerly of the Minnesota State University, on "Literature and Librarians" was attended by a large and appreciative audience.

#### \*THE LIBRARIAN OF A SMALL LIBRARY.

By CARL K. BENNETT, Trustee, Owatonna Public Library.

The ideal librarian is the one whom we should all like to see in every small library, and it would be a comparatively easy task to describe the characteristics of an ideal librarian only. But since, by reason of lack of funds and consequent inappreciation, or indifference of library trustees, the employment of an ideal librarian has not always been effected in the smaller communities, it seems best to discuss this subject from the point of view of the small library only and the conditions there existing and to endeavor to set forth some of the requisites which should govern the choice of a librarian in a small place.

It has been suggested that the average income of a small library in the State of Minnesota is about one thousand dollars per

\*Paper read at the Mankato meeting of the M. L. A.

year. I am frank to say that if I were a trustee of a library having an annual income of only one thousand dollars a year I should not rest content until I had increased that income considerably. It is most difficult for a library in any community to do thoroughly good work with so small a sum. Why should not library trustees, who are for the most part from the best business and professional elements, look upon the library after the fashion of a business enterprise? And just as in any considerable business enterprise, the manager thereof must be the one who brings success or failure, so in the library business it is the librarian upon whom reliance must be placed to make the library a success in a large way and to convince the community of its indispensable and priceless usefulness. The activities of a library should be pushed as one would push a business. The library is an institution capable of growth, expansion, life and exceeding usefulness. A library is not merely a storehouse for books; it may be a live force and power in the community. When the library has assumed this, its rightful place, in any community, any reasonable annual appropriation may be asked for and obtained. But this can only be accomplished by the choice of the right librarian.

From the point of view of good businessmen only, no board of a small library will engage a librarian unless he or she be possessed of *at least* a first rate high school or academy diploma and shall have had one season at the Summer Training School for librarians and, in addition to these requirements, shall have had several weeks of actual experience in a good library. Much to be preferred would be a college or university graduate and one trained in some library school.

But these are not by any means the only requisites of our librarian in question. A love of books and a knowledge of literature are both indispensable. Our librarian should be a cultured person in the broadest sense; but failing this, on account of the newness of some of our towns, a person should be chosen who has the innate and inborn sense of culture—the intuitive right sense in matters of taste and judgment.

There are qualities of heart, mind and disposition to be considered. There should be ability to toil unceasingly and withal cheerfully and the faculty of meeting all people with gentleness, consideration and

agreeableness. Dignity is very essential, as is also a pleasing personality and an aptitude for the work.

Is there not some person in every community, however small, who answers well to these requirements and who will be content, at least at first, to work for inadequate compensation for the sake of the cause?

It is very difficult to state in exact figures the amount of salary which should be paid to librarians in small places, since that depends so much upon local conditions and requirements. But enough salary should be forthcoming to engage the kind of service which has already been indicated.

I should say that from \$40 to \$50 per month should be the minimum wages paid to librarians in small places. With an income of \$1,000 per year, \$500, or one-half thereof, should be spent on the librarian. To be sure this leaves very little for the necessary items of heat, light, incidentals and books. But if the librarian has been well chosen such good use will be made of the available equipment that better results will thus be obtained with such a division of the expenditures than could be obtained with a poor librarian and more money to spend for equipment. A good workman will produce good results even with poor tools; but a poor workman can not even use good tools to advantage.

There is an almost universal sentiment in favor of the employment of a librarian who is also a citizen and resident of the community where the library is located. This is well enough, if the right person is to be found within the community; otherwise there should be no hesitation in searching anywhere for a good librarian.

I venture to say that the members of the State Library Commission have constantly in mind persons who would make very suitable librarians and it is to be hoped that library boards, who fail to find adequate material at home, will apply to the secretary of the Commission.

Having been fortunate in the selection of a good librarian, any board will do well to abrogate most of its powers in favor of the librarian and give that person pretty full control of all of the affairs of the library. And having given over control to the librarian, let that person be made absolutely responsible for the success or failure of the enterprise. The librarian would thus manage

affairs subject to the ultimate authority of the board of directors. It is essential, however, that the board retain full control of the expenditures of money, since upon the board rests the necessity of keeping a supply of money always in the treasury.

Having a good knowledge of books and being in close touch with the public, our librarian should be allowed to choose the new books to be bought. A good all around selection will thus inevitably be made. A trustee is liable to be especially interested in one line of thought and might therefore insist that the library be well supplied with books on the subject of the trustee's hobby. The good librarian is the expert, cosmopolitan book buyer; the trustee is frequently the selfish book buyer.

Our ideal librarian for a small library will be courteous, helpful, encouraging, resourceful and enthusiastic. The well defined wishes of the governing board will be carried out, as, for example, in the matter of building up a good reference library or of keeping good order in the reading room. It will be essential also to keep well posted on the current publications and the book news of the day. And, of course, the ability to classify, catalog, and make accessible the new books added to the library will be possessed by every such librarian.

The patrons of a library rightfully expect that any book offered to them by a librarian will be a good book. Books are the tools of the librarian. How, then, can any librarian be sure of the quality of literature in the library and be able to use the books (the librarian's tools) aright, without being familiar with their actual contents. I contend that every librarian, either personally or by competent proxy, should read every book admitted to the shelves. How else shall a librarian decide what is fit for the public and at the same time perfect a sound literary judgment?

There are numberless devices by which the growth and usefulness of a library may be promoted by the librarian. The public schools may be visited and the teachers interested to suggest supplementary reading and reference work to their pupils. Lists of books suitable for mechanics, farmers, merchants, etc., may be provided and distributed. Bulletins may be prepared. Special days for children will attract them in crowds. Weekly articles of library news might be written for the local papers. Spe-

cial reference and preparatory work for the programs of the women's clubs makes many women enthusiastic for the library. These are only a few of the many ways in which a librarian may be busied.

It will be seen from the foregoing that it takes no ordinary person to meet the requirements of a small library and that to make such a library successful and progressive requires a person of rare qualities. It has been said that a librarian should occupy the same place in the thought of any community and should draw the same salary as the superintendent of the public schools. I heartily concur in this view. But how, I ask, in towns where this fact is not known, or, if dimly realized, is not believed, is the librarian to receive due reward? We must assume that persons of superior talent will be willing to take up library work with incommensurate compensation and will devote a few years of their precious lives for the good of the people. And we must assume that library trustees will courageously use the superior insight into library needs which they have, and will provide only the best possible talent at the highest possible salary.

In a large measure the librarian is the library. His or her personality determines the success or failure of the enterprise. To hand out books and keep records of them is but a clerical detail of the work. To make the library an intellectual and a moral force and an actual, vital, living entity and influence in the community is the real work of a librarian. The latter is accomplished by means of the librarian's persuasive personality, by the use of the books which are the librarian's tools, and by the methods employed to persuade people to read good books. One might as well expect good results to come from a schoolhouse without teachers as to hope for good results from a mere warehouse where books are stored. In the latter case it would be better to hire a cheap clerk and let him guard the treasure.

Every library, no matter how small, should look forward to the time when a so-called trained librarian will be employed. A trained librarian is one who, in addition to the possession of adequate personal and mental equipment, has taken a full course in some good library training school. This gives to such a person the advantage of an intimate knowledge of all of the tools of the

trade and the further ability to inspire in others a true conception of the mission of a public library.

#### \*THE LIBRARY BUILDING.

By E. J. STEARNS, Trustee, Hutchinson Public Library.

In taking up the subject of the library building, its care, heating, lighting, hours of opening, etc., I know of no better way of treating it than to touch in a brief manner upon what the Library Board is doing in my own town of Hutchinson. Although our experience has been somewhat limited, having been located in our new building but a trifle more than four months, our plans as they are developed along these various lines seem to be fitting into our situation very satisfactorily. The janitor who has charge of the heating plant, does the sweeping and attends to the odd jobs is in the employ of the city during about eight months of the year, and, as our building is in the park where much of his time is occupied, the location is very convenient. We have paid the city \$10.00 per month for his services during the summer and fall, but after December 1st and through the winter his pay will be \$12.00. Our building is heated with steam, and there can be little doubt but this is the best system for buildings of this class that are in use but a portion of the time. Steam can be generated and the rooms made comfortable much quicker and consequently at a much less cost than with hot water. To keep the building at a proper temperature, at the least possible cost, is of course what should be aimed at, and this end cannot be attained unless the proper amount of care and study is given the heating plant by the one in charge. Our library is equipped with electric lights—having three six-light chandeliers, and a single stationary lamp connected from below for each of the six tables in the reading room, with a sufficient number of lights in other portions of the building. The librarian regulates the reading room lights by the switches near her desk, as necessity or economy requires. I believe that the stationary lamp fitted with the green porcelain shade is the ideal light for the reading table.

Our annual expense for maintenance would be about as follows:

Librarian, \$35 per month.....	\$420.00
Janitor, \$10 and \$12 per month	130.00
Insurance .....	25.00
Fuel, estimated.....	200.00
Lights " .....	75.00
Cleaning " .....	15.00
Incidentals " .....	35.00
Total .....	\$900.00

Some\* of these items may vary somewhat in the outcome, but I believe the amount will cover the outlay for the year. As our income is \$1,250.00 we will have \$350.00 left with which to purchase books and periodicals.

It was the judgment of our board that for a city of 3,000, which is about our population, all requirements would be met by opening the library to the public each week day afternoon and evening, with perhaps a portion of each Sunday added. This plan has been followed, the board of trustees, nine in number, of which three are ladies, taking the work upon themselves of having charge of the reading room from two until six in the afternoon on Sundays. No books, however, are given out on this day. It was opened a few times in the forenoon, but for various reasons this was discontinued. The patronage in the afternoon is encouraging, thirty to forty being the usual number availing themselves of the privilege. In every town is found the usual number of boys and young men who lounge about the confectionery shops and other places that are opened on Sundays, and great good can be accomplished if the library can reach out and bring a portion at least of this class within its influence. The importance of this point grows upon one as it is considered, and I am sure that with some well directed effort put forth, by calling attention through the newspapers and otherwise to the fact that the reading room is open during certain hours on Sunday, giving a list, perhaps, of the newspapers and magazines on file, some would be led from the street and its evil influences to a more proper use of their time.

As to cleaning and care of the building, we will all agree that, if a library is properly managed, this is a point that cannot be ignored. A constant example of good order and cleanliness should be shown to those who frequent the place. It is a silent influ-

\*Paper read at the Mankato meeting of the M. L. A.

ence that will be constantly at work. See that the reading and book rooms are thoroughly swept and dusted each day and otherwise cleaned as often as it seems necessary. Cork carpet, though quite expensive in the better grades, makes a very desirable floor covering. It is very quiet and is easily cared for. In order that these different matters may be attended to properly and at the right time we have divided our board into committees—one on janitor, another on librarian, a third on cleaning, and a fourth on books and periodicals. By following this plan the whole board is kept interested and no great amount of work devolves upon any one member. No member, however, should feel that his whole duty has been done when he has looked after his committee work. He should be on the alert to extend the influence of the institution. Its possibilities are far-reaching and ever-widening, second only to the public school. Make frequent visits to the library, show an interest in its progress and good work, make kindly suggestions to the librarian that will add value to her labors, and thus you will inspire her to greater effort, and promote and enlarge the influence of the institution with which you are connected.

#### AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The A. L. A. meeting at St. Louis was one of unusual interest. The aim to make this an international conference was realized even more than was hoped. Sixteen countries were represented, plans for international federation were discussed, and a proposal from the Library Association of the United Kingdom for an Anglo-American code of catalog rules was received with much favor. The sessions occupied each morning and were well attended, in spite of the many attractions at the Fair.

The papers were very broad in character, omitting details and technicalities, and dealing with library work in various countries, giving general views of present tendencies and the most significant movements in the library world to-day.

Co-operation along all lines seemed to be the keynote of the meeting, and one movement of especial interest was the organization of the League of Library Commissions for the purpose of publishing lists and other printed matter which is needed in all states.

#### LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS.

The executive committee of the League of Library Commissions, which was organized at St. Louis, met at the Library Bureau, Chicago, November 28th to discuss plans of co-operation. Those present were Mr. H. E. Legler of Wisconsin, chairman, Miss Alice Tyler of Iowa, secretary, Miss Cornelius Marvin of Wisconsin, Miss Merica Hoagland of Indiana, and Miss Clara Baldwin of Minnesota.

The league proposes to issue in co-operation a new edition of the suggestive list of books for a small library, frequent buying lists of new books, a handbook for library trustees, based on the Handbook of library organization formerly published by the Minnesota Commission, and other publications as they are needed. Negotiations are now pending with the A. L. A. publishing board for the publication of the lists, and it is hoped that some definite plans will be matured in the near future.

#### A. L. A. CATALOG.

The new edition of the A. L. A. Catalog, which has been looked for with such interest, has at last been published. It contains 8,000 volumes recommended for a general public library, and is arranged in two parts—the first arranged by classes according to the Decimal Classification, and the second being a dictionary catalog with both Decimal and Expansive Classification numbers given.

The catalog was prepared by the New York State Library, under the editorship of Melvil Dewey with Miss May Seymour and Mrs. H. L. Elmendorf as associate editors, and is published by the Library of Congress. It should prove a useful tool to the small library in classification, cataloging, and selection of books. Printed cards may be obtained for the entire list of books, so that libraries which are about to make a card catalog will find it of great assistance in this work.

Every library in the United States is entitled to a cloth-bound copy, and copies are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price, cloth, 50 cents; paper, 25 cents. A revised list of libraries in Minnesota has been sent to the Library of Congress, but if any library in the state fails to receive a copy they should write to the Library of Congress.

## COMMISSION NOTES.

**Annual Report of Libraries.**—According to the library law as revised in 1903, the board of directors of every free public library in Minnesota is required to make an annual report to the city or village council and to send a copy of this report to the State Library Commission.

Report blanks have already been sent out by the Commission for this purpose, and it is very important that they should be filled out and sent in as promptly as possible. The biennial report of the Commission must be in the hands of the legislature in February, and librarians will appreciate the fact that it will take some time to make the statistical tables and see the report through the press. The Commission is aware that the blank may seem unnecessarily full, but does not ask for figures which will entail a large amount of extra work. If the report is made as full and accurate as possible from the records kept by the library, and, above all, returned promptly, the Commission will appreciate this assistance.

**Clearing House for Periodicals.**—During the last year the work of the magazine clearing house has reached the limit which the present small quarters of the Commission will allow, and many offers of magazines have had to be refused until the rooms in the new capitol are ready. It is hoped that the removal may take place before many weeks, and meanwhile the Commission would be glad to have all the libraries send in lists of their wants at once, so that as many volumes as possible may be sent out before removal, and thus save the work of packing and rearranging. The five-year volume of the "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature," 1900-1904, which begins where the Abridged Edition of Poole's Index stops, will be published in April, and the H. W. Wilson Co. is making a special offer for this volume to libraries with small incomes. The Commission will make a special effort to complete the sets of the last five years, and the small libraries are urged to take advantage of this offer.

**High School Debates.**—An effort was made this year to assist the high schools in the smaller towns in obtaining material for the Debating League. Seven small collections of books and magazines were obtained by

the Commission and one of these collections was sent to the director of each district for use in his district. Preference was always to be given to smaller towns in the league, and the Commission left it in the hands of the district directors to make a just distribution of the material.

**St. Nicholas League Exhibit.**—During the winter of 1903-4 the Commission had for exhibit a collection of pictures showing the work of the St. Nicholas League, an organization familiar to all readers of the St. Nicholas. The collection visited a dozen or more libraries and aroused a great deal of interest, especially among the children, many of whom have since become active members of the league. This collection is still at the disposal of the Commission and a second collection has been obtained to be loaned to those libraries which have already borrowed the first. Write to the librarian of the Commission and inform her when you would like to have the pictures sent to your library.

**Exchange of Bulletins.**—Some of the libraries in our state have expressed a willingness to loan to the smaller libraries bulletins which they have prepared for use in former years. The librarian in a small library, who has everything to do, has little time for making bulletins, and it would seem that here was a fine opportunity for co-operation. If libraries which have bulletins to loan and those which would like to borrow them will kindly send word to the Commission they will be glad to arrange for their distribution.

## NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

**Alexandria.**—The new Carnegie library was opened to the public informally in October.

**Anoka.**—The Carnegie library building, costing \$12,500, was formally opened December 6th, with exercises in the building. George H. Goodrich, president of the library board, presided. A history of the library was given by Mrs. G. H. Wyman, and Miss M. L. Sanford, of the State University, made a brief address.

**Blue Earth.**—The beautiful memorial library erected by W. E. C. Ross in memory of his wife was dedicated November 15th. The dedicatory exercises were held in the building, and consisted of appropriate re-

marks by the donor, the mayor of the town, the president of the board and others. In the evening a public program was given at the opera house. A history of the library was read by the librarian, Mrs. E. R. Sweet, and an address by President Northrop of the State University was greatly enjoyed.

**Crookston.**—The ladies of The Town Improvement League are making an effort to wipe out the debt of the library association. A dance and supper was given on election night, which cleared \$325. Another way of raising money is rather novel. For two days the "New Store" gave the association 10 per cent of the cash sales, the ladies having charge of the store on those days. The proceeds of the sale were \$120.

**Granite Falls.**—The library has been moved into pleasant quarters in the new city hall.

**Hutchinson.**—The public library has arranged for a fine entertainment course for the winter, the proceeds of which will supplement the tax.

**Marshall.**—The new building has been occupied since September. The board is trying an interesting experiment of opening the basement every evening to the use of young men and boys over 12 years of age. The boys are allowed to play games and amuse themselves as they please, so long as the privilege is not abused.

**Minneapolis.**—The open shelf room which was completed this fall has proved a great success. The room contains about 10,000 books of general interest, is furnished with tables, chairs and comfortable settees, and the public are free to choose their own books and make themselves thoroughly at home. The purchase of the fine collection of Arundel prints, consisting of 200 colored reproductions of the old masters, will make a very valuable addition to the already fine collection in the art department. The refurnishing of the old museum room for the use of this department has made it possible to make better use of its treasures than ever before. There have been special exhibits of books on embroideries, laces, furniture, etc.

**Minneota.**—The library, which now contains 500 books, has been moved to new and permanent quarters in the city hall. The library was classified on its removal by the librarian of the Commission.

**Northfield.**—An exhibition of book plates belonging to Miss Poirier, of Duluth public library, was given at the Carleton College library November 30th. Miss Poirier's collection is remarkably fine, and she has been very generous in loaning it on several previous occasions.

**Owatonna.**—Miss Van Buren, the librarian, has been giving a course of lessons on the reference books of the library, which has been of great interest. The extension of the privileges of the library to the county has proven such a success during the past year that the county commissioners have raised the appropriation for the coming year to \$500.

**Pipestone.**—The \$10,000 Carnegie library was opened November 11th with an informal reception from 7 to 10 in the evening.

**Red Wing.**—Mrs L. S. Tandy, who has been librarian at Red Wing for a number of years, resigned this fall to return to her old home in the East. The librarians who have known Mrs. Tandy are sorry to lose her from this state, but hope that the change will be beneficial in every way. The board has been most fortunate in securing as her successor Miss Lucia M. Danforth, who is entering upon her new duties with great enthusiasm and is well equipped for her work.

**Redwood Falls.**—The Carnegie library was dedicated November 9th. President Northrop gave a lecture for the benefit of the library in the Methodist church on "Amusement in Literature." The dedicatory exercises were held at the library building, and consisted of short speeches by the president of the board and other representative citizens and an address by President Northrop.

**Rochester.**—The exhibit of curios and reliques, representing all sorts of distinctive Indian industries, was a great success. Some very valuable specimens were loaned, and Miss Rupp entertained the children with some delightful Indian tales.

**St. Paul.**—A branch will soon be opened at Merriam Park and a new printed catalog has been begun. The late Judge Greenleaf Clark has left a bequest of \$25,000 for the library.

**Sauk Centre.**—After a long delay the Sauk Centre public library is occupying its new building, which was opened November 12th.